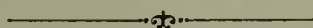


BROWNHILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

ON THE WORK OF THE

Public Health Services,

1949

Chairman of Health Committee :
Councillor Mrs. B. BARNSLEY.

Chairman of the Council :
Councillor Dr. F. R. ROBERTS, J.P.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time) :
DR. T. S. PATERSON, M.D.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN WILSON, D.P.A. (Lond.), M.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

Certificate of R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat
and Other Foods.

Certificate of R.S.I. as Smoke Inspector.

Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as
applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

(1) K. BLOWER, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

(2) Vacant.

Student Sanitary Inspectors :

EAN MARKLEW.

GEOFFREY CROWE.

Clerk :

MAISIE COLLINGWOOD.

Handyman :

S. Wright.

Rodent Operative :

E. Marklew.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1949

Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

*To the Chairman and Members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me pleasure to present to you my report for 1949, the chief matters of interest being summarised as under. The Minister of Health's instruction to compile this report on lines similar to last year has been followed.

AREA AND RATEABLE VALUE.

The area of the district is 6,307 acres. The rateable value is £67,736. The sum represented by a penny rate is £245.

POPULATION.

The population is 21,470, giving a population per acre of 3.4. The population continues to show a slight increase on the previous year.

As reported a year ago, housing accommodation remains inadequate to meet the needs of the district. A number of

houses which are the subject of operative demolition and clearance orders are still occupied. The waiting list for residents requiring housing remains high.

I strongly recommend the Council to combine their efforts to cope with this problem by a fuller energetic re-housing programme.

The following is a summary of houses built during 1949:

Prefabricated bungalows by the Local Authority ...	13
By Private Enterprise	10
Permanent houses by the Local Authority	49

Although some progress has been made, the number is still insufficient for our requirements, but we have fulfilled as to numbers the quota granted by the Ministry of Health.

STATEMENT BY MR. ARTHUR WIKELEY, M.I.Mun.E.,
ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR TO THE COUNCIL, FOR
INCLUSION IN THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

“ TOWN PLANNING.

The year 1949 has seen the first full year of the operation of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, which came into operation on 1st July, 1948. Whilst under this Act, as I mentioned last year, the Planning Authority is the County Council, the Council have delegated powers under Part III of the Act, and I am sure that it is the general opinion that for the immediate results obtained the machinery of operation is somewhat cumbersome.

To those of us who remember planning in the days before the 1932 Act, the work does appear to be a burden and takes up a great deal of time of myself and my staff. In addition, the number of appeals and inquiries involve a great deal of work. However, the Minister has amended certain procedure with a view to assisting the working of the Act, but quite frankly in practice this amending legislation has proved of

little assistance. I am of the opinion, however, that the 1947 Act was necessary, the pity is that it was not passed 40 years sooner as I am quite sure that ultimately it will be of benefit to all.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Again this year, as the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector will show, work has continued in ridding the district of ashpits and pail closets, with the resultant rise in the number of dustbins which have to be emptied. In addition to this, the number of houses which have now been erected both by the Council and private enterprise since the war has placed an additional burden on this service which can now be felt. All the Council tips have now been closed with the exception of the one at Clayhanger which, unfortunately, leaves much to be desired. The service of collection is now carried out by the compressing refuse collector which is able to deal with the collection both more speedily and more hygenically.

SEWERAGE.

Again I can only report that the sewerage system of the district is far below the capacity required and continues to be adversely affected by mining subsidence. The hope I expressed last year that benefit would be obtained as a result of the visit of the Government's Committee on Mining Subsidence was a false hope, as the Coal Mining (Subsidence) Act, 1950, does not give any compensation to Local Authorities for damage to their sewers.

The new outfall sewers which were laid in 1948 to the Walsall Wood Works have been affected by mining subsidence and my only hope can be that these sewers will continue to function until alternative arrangements have been made.

A considerable length of sewer at Norton Canes has had to be relaid on account of damage by subsidence.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Norton Canes Works have continued to function satisfactorily during the year and the effluent from these Works has continued to be of a high standard in spite of the fact that one of the Pumping Stations has been somewhat adversely affected due to subsidence.

At the Walsall Wood Works further progress has been made with regard to remedial works necessary, and six percolating distributors have been fixed to replace the old rectangular distributors and these were put into operation in the autumn thus lessening the burden on the overworked 100ft. percolating distributor which I completely refitted in 1948.

GENERAL.

I am glad to be able to report that 1949 has again given considerable improvements in connection with all the services which I have mentioned and it is with regret that I have to say that much remains to be done to bring the services of refuse collection, sewerage, and sewage disposal up to the standards laid down by the Ministry of Health.

One can, however, gain satisfaction from the fact that progress has been made and in this direction I have to thank the Council for accepting and acting upon my advice and with their continued support I am quite certain that ultimately all our difficulties will be overcome for the benefit of the district and the health of its inhabitants."

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The principal industry is mining. Several new factories have started in the district at which female labour is mostly employed. Just outside the boundary at Walsall Wood there are several brickworks at which inhabitants are employed.

BIRTHS, 1949

Live Births—

			Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	189	...	205	...	394
Illegitimate	...	...	12	...	5	...	17
							Total ... 411

Still Births—

			Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	7	...	5	...	12
Illegitimate	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
							Total ... 12

The total number of births gives a birth rate of 19.1 per thousand of the population, as compared with 16.7 for England and Wales.

Still Births numbered 12, none of which were illegitimate. This gives a Still Birth Rate of 0.55 per thousand of the population. For England and Wales the rate is 0.39. For 126 Great Towns and London the rate is 0.47 and for 148 Smaller Towns (25,000 to 50,000 population at 1931 census) it is 0.40.

Of the total legitimate births 189 were males and 205 females. 17 births were illegitimate.

DEATHS, 1949

Deaths numbered 219 — 112 males and 107 females.

This gives a crude death rate of 10.2 per thousand.

The rate for England and Wales is 11.7 per thousand of the population.

The infantile Mortality Rate per thousand live births is 21.9.

Deaths of legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births is 22.8.

There are no illegitimate deaths recorded.

There were no deaths from Puerperal causes.

Deaths from Measles ... Nil.

Deaths resulting from Whooping Cough ... Nil.

Deaths resulting from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 1 female.

The number of deaths for 1949 and the two previous years is given in the following table:—

DEATHS.

Cause	Male	Female	1949 Total	1948	1947
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.. ..	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	1	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6	2	8	5	8
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	3	1	4	1	4
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	1
Influenza	—	2	2	5	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis..	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus	4	2	6	2	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	3	5	7	4
Cancer of Breast	1	4	5	1	2
Cancer of other sites	13	4	17	15	19
Diabetes	—	—	—	1	—
Intracranial vascular diseases	8	14	22	24	14
Heart Diseases	35	39	74	60	54
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	6	9	5	4
Bronchitis	6	4	10	10	12
Pneumonia	3	5	8	7	5
Other respiratory diseases	3	—	3	6	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	1	1	1	3
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	3	—	3	3	2
Nephritis	3	4	7	2	4
Puerperal and Post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	—	1	1	—	—
Premature Birth	1	2	3	2	5
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries ..	2	2	4	10	7
Suicide	1	1	2	—	3
Road Traffic Accidents	1	—	1	3	4
Other violent causes	5	2	7	5	2
All other causes	7	7	14	14	26
All causes ..	112	107	219	190	190

DEATHS — AGE DISTRIBUTION.

Under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	Over 70	Total
9	3	—	4	2	6	12	14	21	40	108	219

Under one year there were 9 deaths.

68% of the deaths occurred in persons over 60 years.

32% were under 60 years.

The causes of death show little variation.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Cause	Under 1 month	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-9	9-12	Total
Congestion of Lungs ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Debility	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia - suffocation by bedclothes ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Convulsions ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Haemolytic Anaemia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total									9

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.

Year.		Number.		Rate.
1940	...	17	...	40.6
1941	...	21	...	53.1
1942	...	27	...	62.0
1943	...	26	...	62.3
1944	...	28	...	60.3
1945	...	31	...	83.5
1946	...	19	...	41.9
1947	...	16	...	30.8
1948	...	16	...	40.7
1949	...	9	...	21.9

The following Table is inserted for comparison :

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and great towns including London	148 smaller towns (Resident pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Brownhills
Rates per 1,000 Civilian population					
Births:—					
Live Births ..	16.7	18.7	18.0	18.5	19.1
Still Births ..	0.39	0.47	0.40	0.37	0.55
Deaths:—					
All causes ..	11.7*	12.5	11.6	12.2	10.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ..	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
Tuberculosis ..	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52	0.55
Influenza ..	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.09
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio Encephalitis	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ..	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59	0.37
Notifications:—					
Typhoid Fever ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.04
Scarlet Fever ..	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	3.07
Whooping Cough ..	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	3.58
Diphtheria ..	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.04
Erysipelas ..	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.41
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	16.86
Pneumonia ..	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	1.39
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18	0.04
Acute Encephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00
Food Poisoning ..	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19	0.00

* Rates per 1,000 total population.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and great towns including London	148 smaller towns (Resident pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Brownhills
Deaths:—	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
All causes under 1 year of age.. ..	32 †	37	30	29	21.9
Enteritis and Diarr- hœa under 2 years of age	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7	0.04
	Rates per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births				
Notifications:—					
Puerperal Fever }	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	Nil.
Puerperal Pyrexia }					
	† Per 1,000 related live births.				

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales:—

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births,	Rates per mil- lion women aged 15-44	Brownhills
140 Abortion with Sepsis ...	0.11	8	—
141 Abortion without Sepsis ...	0.05	4	—
147 Puerperal Infections ...	0.11		
142-146 } Other Maternal Causes	0.71		2.3
148-150 }			(1 death)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No cases of Dysentery, Typhoid or Paratyphoid were notified. There was one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

We have been fortunate in this district in having only one case of Poliomyelitis notified. The figures for Diphtheria are equally satisfactory, only one case being notified.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease		Under 1 Year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 and over	Total
Measles ..	..	14	222	120	3	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	362
Whooping Cough ..	..	11	44	21	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	77
Scarlet Fever ..	..	—	21	34	7	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	66
Pneumonia ..	..	—	9	7	2	—	4	2	3	3	—	—	30
Erysipelas ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	1	2	9
Meningitis ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Polomyelitis ..	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria ..	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 "	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 "	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 "	2	6	1	1	—	1	—	—
20 to 30 "	5	6	—	—	2	1	1	—
30 to 40 "	3	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
40 to 50 "	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
50 to 60 "	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
60 to 70 "	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
70 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	14	14	3	5	6	2	3	1

Four cases notified during 1949 died during the year.

The home nursing of advanced cases of tuberculosis is still one of difficulty.

The various sanatoria prefer to admit cases who offer a reasonable hope of recovery, the result being that many advanced cases remain at home to be nursed by relatives.

New treatments are, however, available for domiciliary patients.

The outlook for many is better than it was in previous years.

HOSPITALS

Bacteriological and Clinical examinations are for the most part done at Stafford Laboratory.

Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall Hospitals serve the district as regards Surgical, Medical and Specialised

Departments. For the most part maternity cases are served by the hospitals in Lichfield.

Hammerwich Cottage Hospital is now served by a Consultant Surgeon and Gynaecologist and a close liaison is maintained with Burton-on-Trent.

Cases of Infectious Diseases are now being sent to Tamworth Isolation Hospital.

The Ambulance Services, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante Natal Clinics are under the control of the County Council.

WALSALL WOOD COLLIERY

The unpleasant smell and fumes from the mound of Walsall Wood Colliery is proving a source of some irritation to many residents in the district. The attempts to ameliorate this nuisance falls short of requirements.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the help and loyal co-operation I have had from the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff.

My thanks are also due to Mrs. Collingwood for help in preparing the statistics and the report for the printers.

Yours faithfully,

T. S. PATERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE URBAN DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1949.

*To the Chairman and Members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the Urban District.

The housing problem remains unsolved and at the present rate of building it will be many years before all the applicants are living under satisfactory conditions. At the same time the demolition of sub-standard property, which is not repairable at reasonable expense, can only proceed at a snail's pace.

Broadly speaking, local authorities no longer administer the law relating to the hygienic production of milk, but are responsible for its protection in course of distribution. This form of divided control means that a sample of milk, which in the local authority's opinion is unsatisfactory, cannot be followed up by visits to the farm. The frequent inspections by local sanitary officers and the application of their local knowledge have been replaced by remote control.

The advantages and disadvantages of centralisation of services and the removal of such services from the control of locally elected bodies, are outside the scope of this report. Let it suffice to say that local control stimulates local interest and although the optimum size of authorities for the administration of any particular service may be greater than the Urban area, it is not proved that the new authorities are any nearer the ideal.

The Health Committee and the Council have continued to give careful consideration to my reports, whether verbal or written, and their continued support is much appreciated. Chief officers of other Departments and their staffs have been ready to co-operate and so have given me material assistance in my administrative duties.

Yours obediently,

JOHN WILSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PART I — STAFF.

Mr. V.F. Penn, First Additional Sanitary Inspector, left the service of the Council and has not been replaced. The Committee considered that the post should remain vacant pending the qualification of one of the Student Sanitary Inspectors (Mr. E. Marklew and Mr. G. Crowe), who have recently returned from service in H.M. Forces. This depletion of the qualified staff of the department has not been without its effect on the work of the department. For instance, the number of inspections requiring technical knowledge have been reduced.

Mrs. M. Collingwood, formerly employed as a temporary clerk, has been placed on the permanent staff.

The establishment of the Department is a Chief Sanitary Inspector, two Additional Sanitary Inspectors, a Clerk and Student Inspectors. The Department also employs a full-time Rodent Operative and a Handyman.

PART II — WATER SUPPLY.

The public supply for the district is obtained from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. It has been satisfactory in quantity and quality and no case of shortage has come to the knowledge of the Department.

433 samples taken from the public supply to private houses in colliery subsidence areas were submitted to the Medical Research Laboratory for examination. Of this number one showed a bacterial count but immediate follow-up samples were found to be satisfactory.

This is a great improvement on previous years and I hope it is an indication of the progressive diminution of mains fractures. It should be noted that sterile bottles are used for the samples and that taps are sterilised by a flame.

Eleven samples taken from wells were found to be satisfactory, and, as a result of action taken by the Department, the use of two wells has been discontinued, and four houses

have been provided with a piped water supply. A mains supply has also been provided to a dairy farm which previously had an inadequate private supply.

WATER SUPPLY SUMMARY:—

Total houses in the district	...	...	5.664
Houses with direct piped water supply	...	...	5.539
Houses with stand pipes	...	...	32
Number of stand pipes	...	...	6
Houses with communal taps	...	...	86
Houses with wells	...	...	7

The following is a statement on the Water Supply to the Urban District, kindly submitted by R. A. Robertson, Esq., Engineer-in-Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co.

- (1) The supply to the area has been satisfactory in respect of quality and quantity.
- (2) The supply to the Urban District of Brownhills is afforded in part from pumping stations situated outside the boundary of the Authority and in part from Sandhills Pumping Station within the boundary.

All the waters as pumped are examined at regular intervals, both bacteriologically and chemically. Bacteriological samples are also examined of all the raw waters. During 1949, 25 samples from Sandhills Pumping Station were examined, and all were free from coliform bacteria. Monthly routine samples are taken from the Waterman's house at Norton Canes, and from the Municipal Buildings, Brownhills. Twelve samples examined from Norton Canes were all satisfactory as were also the 12 samples examined from the Municipal Buildings. Twelve samples taken from No. 1, High Street, Clayhanger, were likewise satisfactory. During 1949, 1,520 samples were examined bacteriologically from areas in Norton Canes, where the mains were affected by mining subsidence; 98.6 per cent. of these were free from *Bacteria coli*. Chlorination of the service mains was introduced as necessary following burst mains.

The average chemical results for 1949 of the two tap samples from the Waterman's House, Norton Canes, and the Municipal Buildings, Brownhills, were as follows:

	Norton Canes				Brownhills			
pH	7.7	..	..	..	..	7.5	
Alkalinity (CaCO3) ..	80	..	Parts per million			121		
Chlorides (Cl) ..	16.2	..	"	"	"	26.3		
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	Trace	..	"	"	"	Trace		
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	Trace	..	"	"	"	Trace		
Oxidised Nitrogen ..	3.1	..	"	"	"	7.6		
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C) ..	.12	..	"	"	"	.12		
Temporary Hardness ..	74	..	"	"	"	115		
Permanent Hardness ..	44	..	"	"	"	108		
Total Hardness ..	118	..	"	"	"	223		
Iron (Fe) .. ..	.03	..	"	"	"	.04	
Manganese (Mn) ..	Nil	..	"	"	"	Nil		
Zinc (Zn)	Nil	..	"	"	"	Nil		
Poisonous Metals (Cu and Pb) ..	Nil	..	"	"	"	Nil		
Free Cl .. ..	.04	..	"	"	"	.02	

(3) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, no lead being found in any of the samples examined.

(4) Sterilisation of waters is carried out where possible at the pumping stations as a precautionary measure. Special staff and apparatus are available in the event of contamination. Chlorination on site is practised following burst mains, etc., laying of new mains, and emptying of reservoirs. The repaired and new mains etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

PART III — SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Conversions from out dated types of sanitary conveniences to water closets have proceeded under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, so that during the year 69 water closets were provided in lieu of pails and privies, making a total of 292 conversions in the last four years. This I submit is satisfactory progress.

The following tables set out the number of privies and
and pails still in use at the end of the year:—

TABLE I — SEWER AVAILABLE.

District	Pails.			Privy		
	To be con- verted.	For H.A. Action.	Total	To be con- verted.	For H.A. Action.	Total
Norton Canes (including Wyrley)	48	23	71	32	8	40
Brownhills West	7	—	7	3	—	3
Walsall Wood	—	—	—	1	1	2
Shelfield and High Heath ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brownhills	3	13	16	10	2	12
Totals	58	36	94	46	11	57

TABLE II — SEWER NOT AVAILABLE.

District	Pails	Privy
Norton Canes (including Wyrley)	47	30
Brownhills West	17	7
Walsall Wood	17	16
Shelfield and High Heath ..	4	1
Brownhills	22	3
Totals	107	57

Number of houses	...	5,664
Number of houses with water closets	...	5,349
Number of houses with privies	...	114
Number of houses with pails	...	201
Number of houses with bins	...	5,550

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Norton Canes works continue to give a satisfactory effluent and deal with the sewage from the Norton Canes area only.

As indicated in Table 1, there are still some conversions still outstanding and in addition a few houses drain to cess-pools.

Walsall Wood works are under re-construction and the rectangular filters have been replaced by 6 x 60 ft. circular filters to supplement the existing 100 ft. filter. These works receive the sewage from Brownhills West, Brownhills, Clayhanger and Walsall Wood, and the main sewers from these districts to the works traverse areas subject to colliery subsidence.

The sewers in parts of Clayhanger have a back fall and to avoid the overflow of sewage from the manhole near the railway bridge in Bridge Street, a drain has been constructed from the top of the manhole to the flood water. This was done as a temporary expedient but has acquired some degree of permanency—it is most unsatisfactory.

Extensions to the sewerage system are required to provide main drainage for small groups of houses outside the existing scheme. The present drainage constitutes a nuisance. Table 2 shows that 164 houses have no sewer available.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

This service is controlled by the Engineer and Surveyor. A reduction in the frequency of collection introduced towards the end of the year caused some controversy, but the winter of 1950 will doubtless be the proving period. Although from an economic standpoint the change may have much to recommend it, health and service to the public must be in the forefront.

Disposal is by tipping and the number of tips in use has been reduced from five to one. This is a commendable move which should be followed by a clean up of the tips which have been closed and the introduction of "controlled tipping" at the remaining tip, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Regulations. For some considerable time, I have stressed the need for the re-organisation of these tips and, in the interests of health, the sanitary disposal of refuse should be of paramount importance, and financial considerations should be secondary. I intentionally repeat myself on this subject.

The Council considered the question of supplying all dustbins under the terms of Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936. Information was obtained from other authorities and, after careful examination, it was decided not to undertake such a scheme for the present.

PART IV. **SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING** **THE YEAR.**

Total premises visited	8,064
Complaints received	159
Houses inspected—Public Health Act, Repairs	1,872
Housing Act Survey	491
Verminous	58
Overcrowding	83
Sanitary Survey	1,776
Dangerous Houses and Structures	63
Caravans	207
Ashplaces	79
Dustbins	271
Water Closets	158
Privy Middens	147
Pails	129
Conversions	213
Drains—choked or defective	275
new and/or tested	182
Sewerage	21
Cesspools	27
Water Supply	91
Farms and Cowsheds	74
Dairies	69
Ice Cream Premises	78
Butchers' Shops	85
Fish Fryers	155
Food Preparation Premises	112
Bakehouses	47
Licensed Premises	13
Factories and Outworkers	171
Keeping of Animals	5
Food Inspections	82
Disinfections and Disinfestations	42
Infectious Disease Enquiries	149
Miscellaneous	538
Rodent Control	1
Samples—Ice Cream	56
Water, bacteriological	444
Water, chemical	7
Food, bacteriological	1
Food, chemical	2
Milk, bacteriological	13
Refuse Tips	18
Rag and Bone Merchants	10

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices served	188
Informal Notices complied with	206

STATUTORY NOTICES.

TABLE III A.

Section.	Served.	Complied with.
Section 7 Factories Act/1937	1	—
Section 9 Housing Act/1936	—	7
Section 30 Water Act/1945	3	6
Section 39 Public Health Act/1936	6	11
Section 44 Public Health Act/1936	—	—
Section 45 Public Health Act/1936	10	10
Section 47 Public Health Act/1936	30	34
Section 56 Public Health Act/1936	—	1
Section 75 Public Health Act/1936	15	29
Section 79 Public Health Act/1936	1	1
Sections 92 and 93 Public Health Act/1936	68	74
Totals ..	134	173

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY NOTICES.

TABLE III B.

Act or section	Work author- ised in default.	Court Proceed- ings authorised	Notice complied with.		Proceedings instituted
			By Council	By Owner.	
Sec. 45.P.H.A./36	—	1	—	—	—
Sec. 58.P.H.A./36	—	5	—	5	2
Sec. 75.P.H.A./36	3	—	3	—	—
Sec. 94.P.H.A./36	—	40	—	11	9
Sec. 138.P.H.A./36 and Water Act/45	—	—	1	—	—
Sec. 154.P.H.A./36	—	—	—	—	—

NOTES:—

Section 58, Public Health Act, 1936.

Proceedings were instituted in two cases, both in respect of dangerous walls at properties. Both cases were withdrawn as repair work was completed before the date of hearing. In a further case remedial action was taken by the owner before proceedings were instituted. One house was demolished in compliance with an order made during the previous year.

Section 94, Public Health Act, 1936.

Proceedings were instituted in nine cases; in four cases nuisance orders were obtained. Four cases were withdrawn

as the necessary work was completed before the date of hearing. One case was dismissed.

Table IIIA includes notices complied with in 1949 but served in 1948.

Table IIIB includes instances where Court proceedings have been authorised but not instituted at the end of the year.

PART V — HOUSING.

The building of new houses and the re-construction of existing houses is still to a large extent dependent on the supply of materials. It would be a pleasure to write that the question of sub-standard houses had been attacked with vigour, but unfortunately the present economic situation enforces a go-slow policy. Many people continue to live in grossly overcrowded conditions and only one in fifteen of the new houses are allocated for re-housing people from houses scheduled for demolition. It is difficult to assess and so compare the respective needs of people living as sub-tenants with those in unfit property, but I am sure many sub-tenants who say they will now "accept anything" would soon be complainants. A better balance should be attained between the applicants from unfit houses and those who are on the list by reason of overcrowding.

PROCEDURE UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

(a) Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.

The following houses were reported to the Health Committee as unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense:—

No. 4, Chapel Street, Brownhills. Demolished 1.6.49.

Nos. 19 and 21, High Street, Norton Canes.

Action deferred.

A sub-committee visited unfit houses and reported that further consideration should be given to their case for re-housing.

(b) Housing Act, 1949.

The implications of this Act have been considered, but as yet no action has been taken.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

Mr. C. R. Closs, F.I.Hsg., Housing Manager, has supplied the following information in respect of Council Houses, as at 31st December, 1949:—

Prior to the late War:—

Act under which constructed.	—Bedrooms—			—Bungalows—		Totals.
	Two	Three	Four	Prefab.	Old Persons.	
1919	—	256	—	—	—	250
1923	—	154	—	—	—	154
1924	92	158	—	—	—	250
1925	102	344	30	—	6	482
1930	44	56	30	—	—	130
Totals	238	962	60	—	6	1,266

Post-war:—

1946	—	1	—	50	—	51
1947	4	36	—	—	—	40
1948	4	53	—	80	—	137
1949	2	39	—	13	8	62
Totals	10	129	—	143	8	290

PART VI — FOOD.

The nation-wide campaign for cleaner food continues to receive popular support. From a health point of view, our aim is to prevent food poisoning by ensuring that food is not contaminated at any period between manufacture and consumption. This means that it is as important for the housewife in her kitchen to play her part in preventing contamination as it is for the shopkeeper in his store or the cook in his restaurant kitchen. Each establishment presents its own problems, but the general rules of hygiene, shorn of all elaborations, are:—

- (1) Keep food in cool, fly-proof, dust-proof stores;
- (2) Handle food as little as possible;
- (3) Observe cleanliness of person and utensils.

This district has 162 food shops and many are of the small-house and shop type. The general cleanliness of such shops is usually satisfactory, and yet there is an increased danger to food from either (a) mixing domestic duties with the serving of foodstuffs, or (b) the alternate serving of protected (wrapped, etc.), and unprotected foodstuffs. A few of the smaller shops become untidy and difficult to keep clean through a lack of working space—in other words, they are “cluttered up.”

Slaughter of Animals.

The slaughter of animals for general consumption takes place at Walsall Public Abattoir.

There are fourteen private slaughter-houses in the district and six of these are licensed by the Ministry of Food for the slaughter of private pigs.

Butchers' shops have been inspected at frequent intervals.

Licences to slaughter animals have been issued in accordance with the applications received. No licence has been refused.

Milk Purveyors.

The Registers are being amended in order to comply with the coming into operation of the new legislation. I look forward to co-operation with those officers whose duty it will be to supervise milk production.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

(a) Ice Cream Premises.

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream; one of these manufacturers uses a "Hot mix" and two use a "Cold mix."

Seventeen shops have been registered for the sale (only) of Ice Cream and sixteen of these confine their sales to pre-packed ices.

Fifty-six samples of ice cream were submitted to the laboratory for examination, and the following table summarizes the results: —

RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS OF ICE CREAM SAMPLES, 1949.

TABLE IV.

Grade	Time taken to reduce methylene blue (Hours)	No. of samples reducing methylene blue.		
		Produced in district		Produced outside district
		" Hot Mix "	" Cold Mix "	" Hot Mix "
1	4½ or more	2 (100%)	3 (33.3%)	18 (38.6%)
2	2½ - 4	—	2 (22.3%)	10 (22.7%)
3	½ - 2	—	1 (11.1%)	7 (16.0%)
4	0	—	3 (33.3%)	10 (22.7%)
Totals		2	9	45

The major part of the ice cream sold in this area is produced outside the district.

(b) **Manufacture of Preserved Food, etc.**

Fourteen premises are registered for the manufacture of preserved food, etc. The majority of these businesses are ancillary to butchers' shops and are on a relatively small scale. Periodic inspections have been made at these premises.

(c) **Fish Fryers.**

Twenty-eight premises are registered for the sale of fried fish. Routine inspections have been made at these premises, and, in addition, a survey is being made with a view to checking office records and also remedying any defects found at the premises.

(d) The Chief Inspector for **Weights and Measures** for the Staffordshire County Council has supplied the following information in respect of samples taken by his Department:—

DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT.

Nature of Sample	No.	Genuine			Adulterated
Milk	12	..	12	..	—
Milk, Pasteurised	14	..	14	..	—
Milk, Sterilised	14	..	14	..	—
Milk, T.T. Pasteurised	2	..	2	..	—
Milk, T.T.	2	..	2	..	—
Milk, Heat Treated	1	..	1	..	—
Milk, Guernsey	1	..	1	..	—
Ice Cream	1	..	1	..	—
Cream Cake	1	..	1	..	—
Doughnuts	1	..	1	..	—
Chips	4	..	4	..	—
Tinned Tomatoes	2	..	2	..	—
Coffee and Chicory Essence	2	..	2	..	—
Pure Glycerine	1	..	1	..	—
Jelly-making Gelatine	1	..	1	..	—
Sieved Apples with Sugar	1	..	1	..	—
Vi-Cocoa	1	..	1	..	—
Tomato Juice	1	..	1	..	—
Bi-carbonate of Soda	1	..	1	..	—
Gravy Thick	1	..	1	..	—
Mint Sauce	1	..	1	..	—
Tea	1	..	1	..	—
Butter	1	..	1	..	—
Margarine	1	..	1	..	—
Cooking Fat	1	..	1	..	—
Barley Flakes	1	..	1	..	—
Thick Fruit Sauce	1	..	1	..	—
Tomato Dainty Spread	1	..	1	..	—
Tomato Puree	1	..	1	..	—
Delicaf	1	..	1	..	—
Frizets	1	..	1	..	—
Batter Mixture	1	..	1	..	—
Red Plum Jam Full F.S	1	..	1	..	—
Sulphur Tablets	1	..	1	..	—
Trena Pudding	1	..	1	..	—
Parsley and Thyme Stuffing	1	..	1	..	—
Tomato Ketchup	2	..	2	..	—
Vermicelli	1	..	1	..	—
Health and Liver Salts	1	..	1	..	—
Sandwich Spread	1	..	1	..	—
Marconi	1	..	1	..	—
Sardine and Tomato Spread	1	..	1	..	—
Tomato Sauce	1	..	1	..	—
Chocolate Spread	1	..	1	..	—
Beef Sausage	1	..	1	..	—
Pastry Mixture	2	..	2	..	—
Milk Samples taken at Schools	21	..	20	..	1
TOTALS	113	..	112	..	1

(e) **Model Byelaws.**

The Council agreed that the necessary steps should be taken to formally adopt the Model Byelaws covering the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and the Sale of Food in the Open Air.

PART VII — —INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

149 visits of enquiry were made to cases of Infectious Diseases and disinfections have been carried out as required.

The disinfection of rooms is carried out on request and not as a routine measure.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employ a full-time Rodent Operative and a free service is provided for all private house-holders.

Refuse tips, sewage works and other Council properties have been treated. The sewers have been subject to a test bait and maintenance treatments during the year and these have revealed no heavy infestation. The infestation of the refuse tips would be less severe if controlled tipping was employed.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Six licences have been granted by the Council in respect of caravans stationed at specific locations. These caravans are licensed for periods of one year and such licences are renewed subject to no alteration of circumstances.

It will be noted that 207 visits have been made to caravans, and, as in previous years, a large number of these visits are to pseudo gipsy caravaners who visit our common lands all too often.

This is a problem which should be tackled on a national basis, for many of the children receive inadequate education, because of their nomadic life, and their bodies are exposed to the rigours of a very rough mode of living. Many authorities (including the police) would, no doubt, appreciate a solution to this problem; but any one authority setting aside land for such caravans would be inundated and a bigger problem created. As a result, they are pushed around from pillar to post, unwanted and unlikely to become useful citizens.

LICENSED PREMISES.

Visits and inspections have been made at the Licensed Premises within the area. The sanitary accommodation at the 35 Public Houses within the District has been well maintained. In one or two cases re-construction and re-siting would be advantageous, although the existing accommodation does not warrant action under Section 89 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Proposals for a new public house will remedy such conditions in the future in at least one case.

The main criticism is a reluctance on the part of some landlords to switch the lights on in the outdoor conveniences.

MORTUARY.

The mortuary is well equipped and maintained. Suggestions made by doctors for improvements are welcomed, and, wherever possible, acted upon.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Plans for new factories are made available for our inspection and this enables the views of the Sanitary Inspector to be expressed before building is commenced. The co-operation of the Engineer and Surveyor in this matter is appreciated.

Existing factories are visited and the action taken is indicated in Table VI, which is a copy of the official return of the Medical Officer of Health.

Five certificates as to means of escape in case of fire have been granted under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

TABLE V.
INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	36	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	103	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises)	2	2	—	—
Total	47	141	3	—

TABLE VI.

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.	Referred By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)..	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	3	3	—	2	—
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	5	—	2	—

GENERAL.

The Department has undertaken various other duties, including the issue of licences to store petroleum, the sampling of streams alleged to be polluted, and remedial action where appropriate. .

Towards the end of the year, three atmospheric pollution stations have been set up; each station is to consist of one deposit gauge and one sulphur dioxide instrument. The few results to hand are insufficient to be of value.

